

NATIONAL

To help farmers solve age-long problems

Jordan Valley to have research centre

By Dina Matar
Special to the Jordan Times

UNDER AN AGREEMENT signed in September between the Ministry of Agriculture and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Jordan Valley will soon have its own centre for applied agricultural research.

USAID will provide \$5 million worth of technical and advisory assistance, as well as American experts to train Jordanians in the field. The Ministry of Agriculture will provide the centre's offices, and will recruit efficient and trained staff to man the research centre.

The first to be built in the Jordan Valley, the centre will help farmers solve some of the prob-

lems they have been facing over the years. For a long time, farmers in the Jordan Valley have been utilising old-fashioned techniques in farming and irrigating the vast areas of arable land, and the results have not always been satisfactory. Last year, tomato production in the Jordan Valley was crippled due to recurrent raids by a new type of crop killer, the whitefly, which attacked the

plants viciously and left no way to salvage the crops. To date, the farmers are still lamenting their luck.

Besides the seemingly invincible white fly, other pests have also attacked the plants, causing land erosion. The situation is further aggravated by continuous application of improper irrigation methods in the area, and excessive spraying of pesticides hazardous

to health. Although some say that the research centre would only be a dent in solving the farmers' problems, it would undoubtedly help overcome some problems in the Jordan Valley.

According to Miss Lois Richards, USAID deputy director in Jordan, the centre would lay particular emphasis on pest control and soil, water and plant management.

The project itself has been in the works for two years, but it gathered steam only last February and in July, a team of agricultural experts came over from Washington State University to assess the situation in the Jordan Valley and to work on the different aspects of the project.

"The main subjects of the research will be vegetables and fruits," Miss Richards told the Jordan Times. "Since these crops would be contributing to an increase in production in Jordan, and would improve Jordan's income from its agricultural exports in the long run."

The research centre will have three sites from which to carry out its activities in the Jordan Valley, and Jordanian farmers will be included in the project all along. "The centre will always maintain a close cooperation with the farmers, since they should be the sole beneficiaries of the project," Miss Richards pointed out.

The Jordan Valley has had some laboratories set up in the area for similar research purposes. The soon-to-be-built research centre however, will not duplicate previous efforts. On the contrary, explained Miss Richards, it would draw on the experience of the other laboratories and try to find

some solutions to the problems of agriculture.

Solving the problems of the Jordan Valley will take a long time. But Miss Richards seems optimistic that once the problems are identified, they would be tackled and solved quickly. "Jordan has a huge reservoir of talent, and its people are very cooperative. I am sure that the project would go ahead with very few problems," she said. "What we have to do right away is work out some adaptable solutions to the existing problems in the Jordan Valley, since it is not that the problems are insoluble, but they need specific solutions," she added.

The Jordan Valley has been the primary area of work for USAID since 1975, and most programmes have been geared towards water management and developing water resources and supplies. Some of the work, carried out with the cooperation of the Jordan Val-

ley Authority and the Jordan Valley Farmers Association, has been mostly concentrating on developing crops programmes in the area. Other programmes were directed towards water management and using different irrigation techniques.

Besides providing technical advice, USAID has been going ahead with its training programmes. In 1981, about 130 Jordanians have been sent for training courses in the United States.

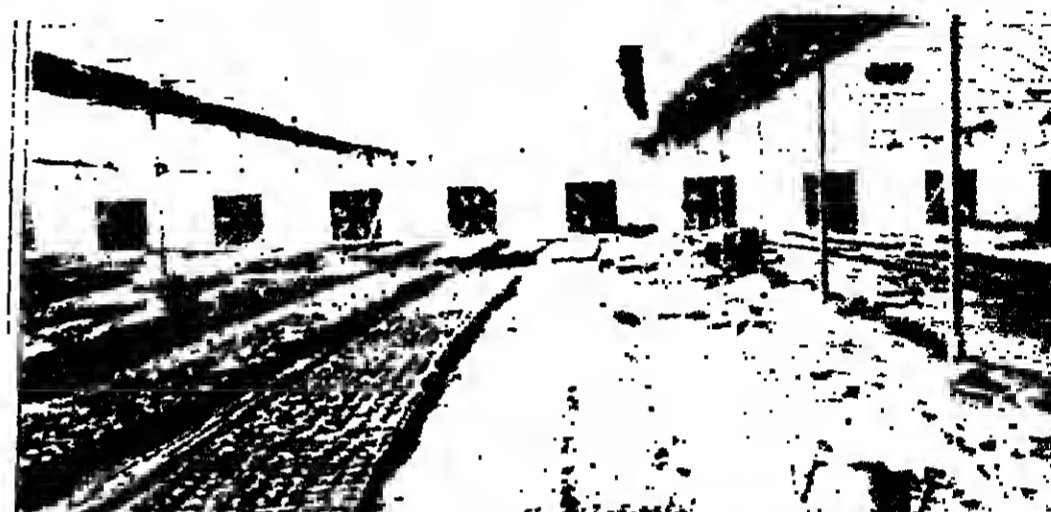
USAID has also tried its hands at health and educational activities, in addition to its basic financial and technical aid in the agricultural field. During the past fiscal year, USAID donated some \$10 million for various programmes in Jordan. In fiscal 1982, USAID plans to allocate \$20 million to boost its programmes in Jordan, but the sum needs to be approved by the State Department, Miss Richards said. In 1981,

USAID had some \$112 million tied down in eight funds for ongoing projects in Jordan. USAID officials hope they can get more. "What hinders us is a lack of funds, because we get our budget from the United States," Miss Richards said. "We would like to do so much more for Jordan, its people, who have shown a great deal of sensibility in terms of improvement and acceptance change," she added.

Miss Richards said that she has used foreign assistance very well and the general success of the many projects around the country is a tangible sign of improvement in the economy. She added that Jordanians have been able to take advantage of opportunities presented to them to improve their conditions. "I just hope that the research centre would eventually solve the problems in the Jordan Valley," she concluded.



Most programmes in the Jordan Valley have been geared toward water management and developing water resources and supplies.



The projected agricultural research centre will lay particular emphasis, among other things, on plant management.

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Amman

NATIONAL

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TCC chief back from Athens visit

AMMAN, Nov. 14 (Petra) — Telecommunications Corporation Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail returned to Amman this evening at the end of a visit to Athens. He attended the opening there of a new automated telephone exchange which was installed by a French firm, similar to one that is expected to be installed by the French in Amman soon in accordance with a bilateral agreement.

Mohammad congratulates King

AMMAN, Nov. 14 (Petra) — His Highness Prince Mohammad today sent a cable of good wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on his 46th birthday anniversary. In his cable Prince Mohammad wished King Hussein continued success in the leadership of the Jordanian people and in achieving progress and prosperity for his country.

Zarqa merchants urged to give

ZARQA, Nov. 14 (Petra) — Zarqa Chamber of Commerce President Ibrahim Takiyeddin today called on the city's merchants and businessmen to offer contributions to the national committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons, saying that any donations would be used to implement projects for the benefit of handicapped people. Mr. Takiyeddin said that the chamber had, in

September, collected cash and in kind contributions to the national committee, but he did not give any details.

Orthodox panel donates JD 1,000

AMMAN, Nov. 14 (Petra) — The Orthodox cultural and educational committee has donated JD 1,000 to a campaign to benefit the disabled run by the Jordanian national committee for the International Year of the Disabled. The money collected in this campaign will be used to buy special apparatus for handicapped people.

NCC panel sets meeting

AMMAN, Nov. 14 (Petra) — The National Consultative Council's committee entrusted with studying the Salt social "manifesto" will meet Tuesday to resume its consideration of the document.

Town awards pump station job

JERASH, Nov. 14 (Petra) — Souf Municipality has awarded a tender to a local firm for the construction of a water pumping station to supply water to the town, at a cost of JD 20,000. Work on the project, which will make available 30 cubic metres of water an hour, will begin in the coming month.



National Consultative Council President Ahmad Al Tarawneh (far left) and the NCC delegation await their London flight at Amman Airport on Saturday (Petra photo)

Tarawneh leads NCC delegation on visit to U.K.

AMMAN, Nov. 14 (Petra) — National Consultative Council (NCC) President Ahmad Al Tarawneh left for the United Kingdom today on a visit at the invitation of the British government.

Tarawneh will meet with a number of members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, as well as leading political figures.

Mr. Tarawneh is accompanied on the visit by NCC members Khalil Al Salem, Abdul Majid Hijazi, Marwan Al Humoud, Mansour Al Batayneh and Khaled Abdul Nabi. NCC Secretary Adnan Bayoun accompanies the delegation.

2 new stamps mark King's birthday

AMMAN, Nov. 14 (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications today issued two commemorative stamps to mark His Majesty King Hussein's 46th birthday anniversary.

One of the stamps portrays the blind and the other, the International Year of Disabled Persons.

The issuance of the two stamps on the occasion is designed to have great significance and to remind citizens of King Hussein's endeavours in caring for handicapped people. Communications Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben said on the occasion.

New Jordan envoy visits Qatari heir

DOHA, Nov. 14 (Petra) — Qatari heir apparent Sheikh Hamad Ibn Khalifa yesterday lauded the strong brotherly ties binding his country with Jordan, and praised His Majesty King Hussein and Qatari ruler Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani for their efforts to serve the peoples of both countries.

He was speaking upon receiving the new Jordanian ambassador to Qatar Mr. Khaled 'Ubeidat. Sheikh Hamad praised the role of Jordanians in the development of his country.

ARE YOU...

Staging a play? Putting on a concert? Delivering a lecture? Organising any non-profit activity open to the public?

Do you have any kind of event to announce to the Jordan Times' readers? The What's Going On listing is always open to receive entries, preferably written ones, in English or Arabic... free of charge.

Entries should be received at the Jordan Times office, by hand or by mail, at least 24 hours before the scheduled event. Let us know!

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

* The Alia Art Gallery presents the Contemporary Masters exhibition.

* The Jordan Artists' Association presents an exhibition of paintings by Yasser Duwaik, at the association centre in Jabal Luwibdeh, opposite the French Cultural Centre. The exhibition opens at 5 p.m.

* Paintings by Yussef Husseiny, in the lobby of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

Film

* The French Cultural Centre presents "RAK", a film by Charles Belmont (sub-titled in Arabic) at 7:30 p.m.

Baghdad conference urges support to administrative development

AMMAN, Nov. 14 (Petra) — Jordan's delegation to the second conference on administrative development in the Arab World returned to Amman from Baghdad last night.

Participants in the four-day meeting discussed several subjects pertaining to the development of Arab administrative systems and human resources.

The participants called on Arab states to enact legislation and

administrative bylaws that would serve the requirements of economic and social development in the Arab World, and called on Arab governments to support the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences, which organised the meeting, to help it with its various tasks and programmes.

Another recommendation called for promoting and highlighting the role of women in development, and offering them opportunities for training and employment in various institutions; and also urged governments to facilitate the travel of Arab workers among Arab countries.

Jordan's delegation to the meeting was led by Mr. Ali Khreis, director of the Civil Service Commission.

American Women lend a 'Helping Hand'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A pair of slacks which originally sold for JD 15 is on sale at The Helping Hand, the American Women of Amman's thrift shop, for 50 fils. Second-hand children's clothing, men's suits and sports clothes, sweaters, T-shirts, household goods — all in serviceable condition — are on sale, most of them for only a few piasters.

"Ladies' slacks are not a fast-moving item," said Mrs. Donna King, a member of the volunteer staff of the shop, as she removed over a dozen of them from hangers and stacked them on shelves. The greatest demand is for clothing for children and infants.

Mrs. Louise Carty, who has directed the work of the shop since it opened last April, told the Jordan Times that it serves three purposes. All of its profits go to the needy of Jordan; it provides a service for shoppers, and it is a worthwhile project for which members of the American Women of Amman can work. It aims, however, at an international clientele of customers, and donors, of good, used merchandise.

"Our problem is that we are not getting well known by word of mouth," Mrs. Carty said. "We have about 15 regular customers who appear twice a week, but they are not spreading the word about our services."

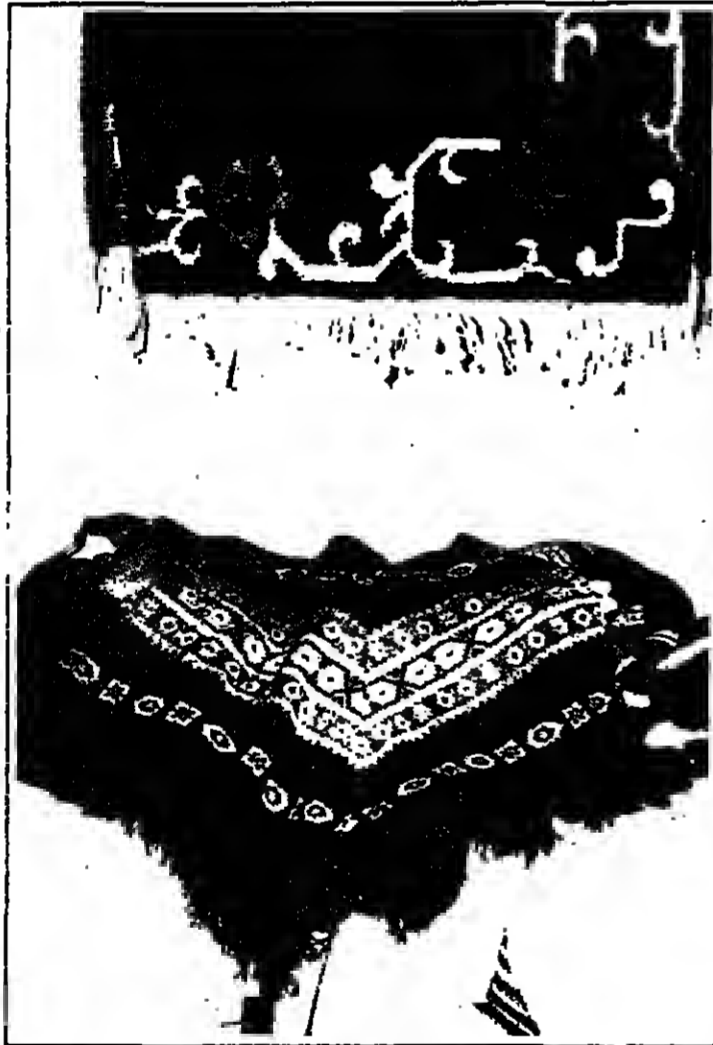
"People new to Jordan can find few household items and clothing to help get themselves settled. Anyone visiting the shop can see for themselves the bargains they can find here," she added.

New items for sale are copies of the still-useful "Welcome to Amman" directory published by the American Women of Amman in 1976, now selling for a half dinar. Hand-knotted rugs produced by the Rural Development Society are also available.

Mrs. Mildred Huebner will direct work at The Helping Hand when Mrs. Carty leaves Jordan soon. Other volunteer workers include Mmes. Peggy Richley, Sharon Duke, Sharon Roberts, Judy Abu Jaber, Gloria Thomas and Ghada Muasher. The shop is licensed by the Ministry of Social Development.

To reach The Helping Hand, take the major thoroughfare from the Interior Ministry Circle going towards Firas Circle. Turn left immediately after passing the street island planted with trees. Follow this street, which is named Akka, for four blocks, until it turns into an impassable alley. The thrift shop is at the end of this alley. Turn either right or left, and go around the block, to reach it.

The Helping Hand is open six hours a week, on Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Top left, woollens for winter are piled under a hand-knotted rug from the Rural Development Society displayed on the wall of The Helping Hand, the American Women of Amman's Jabal Hussein thrift shop; top right, Mrs. Donna King, a volunteer worker, carries a load of merchandise into the shop, which is



licensed by the Ministry of Social Development as a charity outlet; bottom, Mrs. Louise Carty admires a second-hand T-shirt on display, which she later bought for her husband (photos by Marianne Pearson)



Social Security investments top 11,400,000

AMMAN, Nov. 14 (Petra) — The Social Security Corporation's (SSC) total investments in Jordanian projects have reached a figure of JD 11,421,000, according to an SSC spokesman.

A total of JD 9,457,710 has been invested in Jordanian projects, the spokesman said, and most of the rest was used to extend loans to Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline and the Jordan Hotels and Resthouses Corporation.

A sum of JD 710,209,643 was invested in land and the purchase of buildings and other property.

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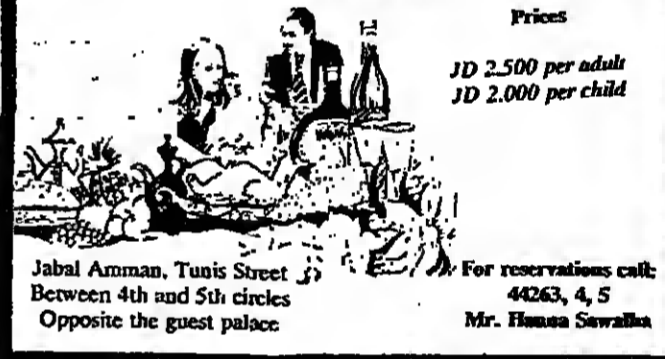
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The JORDANIAN INDUSTRIAL FAIR

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On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday anniversary, the Amman Chamber of Industry will hold an industrial fair at Yarmouk University.

The Chamber of Industry calls on the participation in the fair to bring their exhibits to the hall between Nov. 14 and Nov. 18. The chamber will contact transport companies running between Amman and Irbid to supply transport for visitors from Nov. 22-27. The grand opening will take place on Nov. 21.

The Amman Chamber of Industry believes that encouraging national industries is a sacred duty.

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Self in life

ECONOMY

Experts discuss measures to develop Kuwait stock market

KUWAIT, Nov. 14 (A.P.) — A seminar opened in Kuwait today to discuss ways and means for the development of the country's stock exchange market...

General Amin Al Hussein is representing Jordan at the conference. The conference is co-sponsored by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry...

Mr. Hamad Al Saqr said the Kuwait securities market held the eighth position in the world despite the small number of Kuwaiti companies and the short experience...

Mr. Greider wrote that Mr. Stockman, having become convinced of the necessity of budget cuts, thought he would succeed in obtaining cuts in the defence department's budget.

Where did things go wrong? asks Stockman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 (Agencies) — President Reagan has severely reprimanded David Stockman for published remarks expressing serious misgivings about the administration's economic programme.

The following quotations from David A. Stockman, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, appeared in an article by William Greider in the December issue of the Atlantic Monthly.

None of us really understands what's going on with all these numbers. You've got so many different budgets out and so many different baselines and such complexity now in the interactive parts of the budget...

People are getting from A to B it's not clear how they're getting there. It's not clear how we got there. The defence numbers got out of control and we were doing that whole budget-cutting exercise so frenetically...

And it didn't quite mesh. That's what happened. But you see, for about a month and a half, we got away with that because of the novelty of all these budget reductions.

Mr. Greider wrote that Mr. Stockman, having become convinced of the necessity of budget cuts, thought he would succeed in obtaining cuts in the defence department's budget.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

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AMMAN AIRPORT FOR SUNDAY, ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES

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PRAYER TIMES FOR THURSDAY, CHURCHES

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES, USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MARKET PRICES

Brussels slips on olive oil tax

By John Wyles

BRUSSELS: It is a fact of EEC life that solutions to urgent problems bring new and sometimes more serious problems in their wake.

There is no better example of this truism than possible answers to the "great Spanish olive oil problem."

The European Commission is again wrestling with the problem in the context of changes which will have to be made to the Common Agricultural Policy to cope with the impact of Spanish entry.

But whatever the true figure, the assumption is that it will be politically and financially unacceptable to member-states.

The tax proposal has also drawn a broadside from the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organisation committee on commodity problems.

Spain's entry to the EEC will bring with it many problems, but none greater than the tidal wave of olive oil which threatens to engulf the Brussels Commission.

against such a tax and have been mobilised for the last few weeks to warn that it would provoke a fundamental quarrel with Washington and would undoubtedly invite reprisals.

The Americans believe, probably correctly, that it would put at risk their \$4 billion a year exports to the EEC of soybeans.

Supporters of the tax argue that whatever damage it caused to other countries' exports to the Ten

would be more than offset by the greater access they would have to the Spanish market when the present prohibitive Spanish tariff on soya was reduced to zero.

The 14 commissioners have so far appeared evenly divided on the tax proposal with opponents arguing that there is no need to take such a decision now and that the tax idea is an unattractive way of dealing with the problem.

assurances about the future of their key agricultural product whose domestic market share is bound to decline when Spanish tariff barriers are lowered, after EEC entry.

Sugar industry sources say that, barring natural disasters, production during the harvest should equal or top that of last year.

With about fifty per cent of sugar cane affected by 'roya' rust during the 1979-80 harvest, output then dropped to 6.8 million tonnes.

consolidation of the GATT commitment on oilseeds and imposition of an import levy, a minimum import price system and large structural subsidies to reduce output.

The last alternative looks certain to be adopted with or without a tax since, in the longer term, EEC olive oil production must be reduced.

Heavy investments have been made over the past few years to renovate many of Cuba's 150 sugar mills and 15 new mills are scheduled to go into service during the present decade.

Each complex is organised around an individual sugar mill where decentralisation of management had previously been the rule.

Premium pay and bonus systems for sugar workers, introduced during the past harvest, resulted in increased productivity and monetary incentives will be extended this year.

EXCHANGE RATES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS, MARKET PRICES

